



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

December 20, 2019

TO: All County Assessors

FROM: Jeri Lux, Current Use & Education Specialist
Property Tax Division

**SUBJECT: 2019 FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE GRAIN PRICES
AND SUBSIDY PAYMENTS**

The Department of Revenue (Department) annually provides a five-year average of wheat and barley prices for use by assessors in appraising land in the farm and agricultural classification of the Current Use Program.

Wheat and Barley Prices:

The wheat and barley price averages are based on data from the United States Department of Agriculture, as reported in the [National Agricultural Statistics Service](#). If you have any questions regarding the components of these averages, please contact [Jeri Lux](#) at (360) 534-1360.

2019 Average Grain Prices (5-Year Average)	
Wheat	Barley
\$5.16 per bushel	\$3.15 per bushel

Why isn't the Department providing 10-year averages?

In late 2007 and early 2008, there was an anomaly in wheat prices. This caused the Department, beginning in 2010, to include a ten-year average for a more stable and accurate price. Now that anomaly is further back than ten years, the Department is no longer providing a ten-year average price. For the purposes of the ratio study, the Department appraises wheat land in the Current Use Program using either net cash rental or earning and productive capacity, using 5-year price averages.

Why isn't the Department providing crop subsidy payments?

The 2014 farm bill eliminated guaranteed subsidy payments through the former cyclical and counter cyclical payment program and began a new program. Under the current federal program, the Department can no longer obtain standardized payment information as it varies by county and farmer. Therefore, the models illustrating the payment benefit for different rotation cycles will no longer be included with this memo. The Department will continue to monitor federal subsidy programs, and we recommend counties with land that may benefit from federal programs, do the same.